

author's well-known treatise on Navigation. Mr. Escott was a Freemason, and took an active interest in the charitable institutions connected with that body, besides filling various parochial and other public offices. He was a man of marked ability and varied attainments, and by his personal qualities he won the affection and esteem of a wide circle of friends.

Mr. Escott died October 28, 1891. He was elected a Fellow of this Society May 13, 1864.

THOMAS HENRY HOVENDEN was born in Finsbury, November 4, 1833. He was educated privately, and on leaving school was articled to a solicitor. He was afterwards for many years the senior member of the firm of Hovenden, Heath & Berridge, surveyors, of Bishopsgate Street, from which he retired on account of failing health a few years before his death. Mr. Hovenden was a member of the British Archæological Association, and was elected a Fellow of this Society, December 12, 1884.

JOHN MERRIFIELD was born August 24, 1834, at Petertavy, on the borders of Dartmoor. He received his early education at the Tavistock National School, and after passing two years at the Exeter Training College was appointed elementary schoolmaster at Marytavy. His spare time was devoted to surveying and chemistry, and he was much sought after as an analyst. His natural love for mathematics, however, led him in 1862 to leave Marytavy for Plymouth, to become the founder and head master of the Plymouth Navigation School, thenceforward occupying himself in astronomy and kindred subjects.

In 1860 he published, in conjunction with Mr. Evers, a *Treatise on Navigation and Nautical Astronomy*. In 1876 he published a work on *Magnetism and the Deviation of the Compass*, and in 1887 a *Treatise on Nautical Astronomy*, in which he introduced his own method of clearing the lunar distances. In 1888 he received the Bronze Medal of the Falmouth Polytechnic Exhibition for an artificial horizon for sea use.

Mr. Merrifield's interest in education was shown by the science classes conducted by him, in most cases for the love of teaching, in which students were instructed in the elements of mathematics. He was a Fellow of the Royal Meteorological Society, and made and tabulated regular observations for nearly twenty-seven years. At the time of his death he was engaged in preparing for publication a work on *Climate and Health*.

Mr. Merrifield died June 27, 1891, having been in failing health for nearly two years. He was elected a Fellow of this Society February 10, 1865.

JESSE SCOFFIN NIMKEY was born in 1838. He was engaged in a business which demanded most of his time and attention, but

was an assiduous student of astronomy, especially during his later years. He had an observatory built for his 6-inch telescope, and employed his skill as an artist in making drawings of the Moon and planets. He constructed an ingenious model for illustrating and demonstrating the phenomena of the solar system, the longitude and right ascension of the Sun and Moon, right ascensions of stars, &c. The model was exhibited at the People's Palace in 1887.

Mr. Nimkey was a skilled musician, and was an organist in London for more than twenty-eight years. He died from a disorder brought on by over-work and study on December 17, 1891. He was elected a Fellow of this Society January 11, 1889.

NORMAN ROBERT POGSON was born on March 23, 1829, at Nottingham, where his father carried on an old-established business as a hosiery manufacturer. Being intended for a commercial career, young Pogson received only an ordinary education, but very early in life he evinced scientific tastes and a marked dislike of business. His desire for scientific information was encouraged by his mother, who procured him access for some time to the works of an optician and instrument maker at Nottingham. On the removal of his father to Manchester he succeeded in obtaining lessons in trigonometry and other branches of mathematics, and eventually Mr. Hind, sen., of Nottingham, suggested to his parents to send him to London, giving him a letter of introduction to his own son, Mr. J. R. Hind, at that time astronomer of Mr. Bishop's observatory in the Regent's Park. Here Mr. Pogson was enabled to study practical astronomy under excellent guidance, while he supported himself by giving lessons in mathematics. In 1847 he first introduced himself to the notice of the astronomical world by publishing parabolic elements of two comets, and in the following years he computed elements and ephemerides of various comets and minor planets. This led to his being engaged as an assistant at the Regent's Park Observatory, which post he only held for less than a year, as he was at the close of 1851 appointed assistant at the Radcliffe Observatory, Oxford. Here he was regularly employed in observations with the transit instrument from the beginning of 1852 to the end of 1858, but though he devoted himself with energy to the routine work required of him, he found time for other observations as well, and soon became distinguished in the two fields of work with which his name will always be associated—minor planets and variable stars. In 1852 he discovered the variability of *R. Cygni*, and in the course of years he found eighteen other variable stars, the last being *X. Capricorni*, found at Madras in 1865. In 1854 he picked up the planet *Amphitrite*, which had, however, been found by Mr. Marth the night before, but two years later he was more fortunate, when he discovered *Isis* (42), and, encouraged by this and by the Lalande Medal which it procured him, he found in 1857 two other planets, (43) and (46). In the mean-